

Application Serial No. 10/755,987
Reply to office action of November 9, 2006

PATENT
Docket: CU-3539

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 are pending before this amendment (claims 8-9 have been withdrawn due to restriction requirement). By the present amendment, claims 2-3 (and withdrawn claims 8-9) are canceled without prejudice; and claim 1 is amended. No new matter has been added.

In the office action (page 2), claims 1-2 and 4-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,741,709 (Kay). In the office action (page 4), claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kay in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,062,052 (Kajihara); and claim 7 stands rejected also under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kay in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,738,484 (Nakabayashi). The "et al." suffix is omitted in a reference name.

In the office action (page 5), claim 3 stands allowable if it is rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all limitations of claims 2-3, which are now cancelled. Accordingly, all pending claims 1 and 4-7 are now in condition for allowance.

The withdrawn claims 8-9 are cancelled here for speedy issuance of a Notice of Allowance, but the applicant respectfully reserve the right to present them in a divisional application.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicant respectfully submit that claims 1 and 4-7, now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The applicant

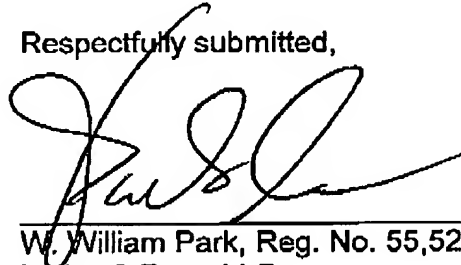
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respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance in the next action.

This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: January 18, 2007

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